

The Democratic Pioneer?

TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND THE CONSTITUTION.

BY L. D. STARKE.

TERMS.

THE DEMOCRATIC PIONEER,
L. D. STARKE, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR,
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at the following rates.

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Office opposite Mason's Hotel, and over the store of Mr. Wm. Shannon, corner of Main and Road streets.

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ROBERT WHITING,
E. City, Aug. 8, 1850.

CARRIAGES AND HARNESS.
NEW STOCK
RECEIVED.

I beg your thanks for the liberal patronage

before and confined to be extended to him,

the subscriber with pleasure solicits the attention of his customers and the public generally to his

newly completed stock of

CARRIAGES, DOUBLE & SINGLE
ROCKWIVI, B. B. ROUCHES,
BUGGIES AND SULKIES.

of the latest and most fashionable styles.
His stock of HARNESS also is complete, new,
of the most recent and approved patterns;
not without attention upon the elegance and ex-
cellence of his assortments of Saddles, Bridles,
Muzzles, &c., &c., all of which are made
and every article appertaining to his line of busi-
ness, is prepared to dispose upon terms un-
surpassed, in the price or accommodation, by any
manufacturer south of the Potomac. He invites his
clients, assuring the customer that the article he
wishes is to be had at the shortest notice,
and forwarded to his address. Dry Goods and Ready
Made Clothing, &c., &c., which is determined
to sell as cheap as any house in the city.

ROBINSON WHITE,
E. City, Aug. 8, 1850.

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DEMOCRATIC PIONEER.

TUESDAY MORNING, DEC. 10, 1850.

AS WE EXPECTED.

"Nero fiddled while Rome was burning;" and the editor of the "Old North State" sings lullabies to his readers while they are threatened with the most disastrous consequences, and while the most watchfulness and energy are necessary. "The price of liberty is eternal vigilance," exclaimed a good and patriotic man; but our neighbor endeavors to dispel all apprehensions and lull the public into profound sleep. He comes out in opposition to the proposed Southern Rights Association; he is opposed to it and all similar schemes, at the present time; he "looks upon it as premature," and "exhorts the friends of the Union and of the Compromise to hold themselves aloof from any Southern Rights Association, now," &c. "In time of peace, prepare for war," was the advice of an illustrious man; and though no war is proposed, yet the South is assailed in a manner which calls for retaliation, not only as a measure of retributive justice, but of self-respect and prosperity. A proposition is made simply to withhold our own money from Northern fanatics, and spend it at home; and our neighbor shrinks from the responsibility, lest it should "stir up sectional feelings and jealousies." The North may "pile Pelion upon Ossa" in the form of outrage and abuse—they may recklessly disregard all constitutional obligations, and wantonly trample upon the rights of the South—and yet a Southern editor "exhorts" the South not to "stir up sectional feelings and jealousies!" Now we maintain that this is one of the surest means of allaying agitation; for, by taking this step, we would convince the North that we are aroused to a full sense of our wrongs, and are in earnest in our resolution to submit no longer to their aggressions.

We commend this important State paper to the attentive perusal of all—for all are interested in it. It is needless to submit any comments upon the general character of the message, as the reader can form his own opinions. It is a very plain, unostentatious affair, and there is no effort at display. But there is one point upon which we will make a single remark. The President says, (in allusion, we suppose, to the slavery question,) that "in our domestic policy, the Constitution will be my guide." Towards the close, he says that "a great majority of our people approve, and are prepared in all respects to sustain these enactments (the Compromise measures.)" he "cares not that the American people will rebuke any attempt to violate its (the Union's) integrity, to disturb the compromises on which it is based, or to resist the laws which have been enacted under its authority." It says that the Compromise "measures are regarded by him as a settlement, in principle and substance, a final settlement of the dangerous and exciting subjects which they embraced. Most of these subjects, indeed, are beyond your reach, as the legislation which disposed of them was, in its character, final and irrevocable. It may be presumed from the opposition which they all encountered that none of those measures was free from imperfection, but in their mutual dependence and connexion they formed a system of compromise, the most conciliatory, and best for the entire boundary, that could be obtained from conflicting sectional interests and opinions."

For this reason, I recommend your adherence to the adjustment established by these measures, until time and experience shall demonstrate the necessity of further legislation to guard against evasion or abuse.

By that adjustment we have been rescued from the wide and boundless agitation that surrounded us, and have firm, distinct, and legal ground to rest upon.

And the occasion, I trust, will justify me in exhorting my countrymen to rally upon and maintain that ground as the best, if not the only means of restoring peace and quiet to the country, and maintaining intact the integrity of the country.

And now, fellow citizens, I cannot bring this communication to a close without invoking you to join me in humble and devout thanks to the Great Ruler of nations, for the multiplied blessings which he has graciously bestowed upon us. His hand, often visible in our preservation, has stayed the pestilence, saved us from foreign wars and domestic disturbances, and scattered plenty throughout the land.

Our liberties, religious and civil, have been maintained; the fountains of knowledge have all been kept open, and means of happiness widely spread and generally enjoyed, greater than have fallen to the lot of any other nation. And, while deeply penetrated with gratitude for the past, let us hope that his all-wise Providence will so guide our counsels as they shall result in giving satisfaction to our constituents, securing the peace of the country, and adding new strength to the United Government under which we live.

MILLIARD FILLMORE.

WASHINGTON, December 2d, 1850.

is not to be expected that they should raise money, by internal taxation, direct or indirect, for the benefit of that commerce, the revenues derived from which do not either in whole or in part, go into their own treasuries.

It would be strange if they had been received with immediate approbation by people and States, prejudiced and heated by the exciting controversies of their representatives. I believe those measures to have been required by the circumstances and condition of the country. I believe they were necessary to allay asperities and animosities that were rapidly alienating one section of the country from another, and destroying those fraternal sentiments which are the strongest supports of the Constitution. They were adopted in the spirit of conciliation, and for the purpose of conciliation.

I am gratified in being able to state, that the estimates of expenditure for the navy in the ensuing year are less, by more than one million of dollars, than those of the present, excepting the appropriation which may become necessary for the construction of a dock on the coast of the Pacific, propositions for which are now being considered, and on which a special report may be expected early in your present session.

There is an evident justness in the suggestion of the same report, that appropriations for the naval service proper should be separated from those for fixed and permanent objects, such as building docks and navy yards, and the fixtures attached; and from the extraordinary objects under the care of the Department, which, however important, are not essentially naval.

A revision of the code for the government of the navy seems to require the immediate consideration of Congress. Its system of crimes and punishments had undergone no change for half a century, until the last session, though its defects have been often and ably pointed out, and the abolition of a particular species of corporal punishment, which then took place, without providing any substitute, has left the service in a state of defectiveness, which calls for prompt correction.

I therefore recommend that the whole subject be revised without delay, such a system established for the enforcement of discipline as shall be at once humane and effectual.

The accompanying report of the Postmaster General presents a satisfactory view of the operations and condition of that department.

At the close of the last fiscal year, the length of the inland mail routes in the United States (not embracing the service in Oregon and California) was one hundred and seventy-eight thousand six hundred and twenty-two miles; the annual transportation thereon forty-six million five hundred and forty-one thousand four hundred and twenty-three miles; and the annual cost of such transportation two million seven hundred and twenty-four thousand and four hundred and twenty-six dollars.

The increase of the annual transportation over that of the preceding year, was three million nine hundred and ninety-seven thousand three hundred and fifty-four miles, and the increase in cost was three hundred and forty-two thousand four hundred and forty dollars.

The number of post-offices in the United States on the first day of July last, was eighteen thousand four hundred and seventeen—being an increase of sixteen hundred and seventy during the preceding year.

The gross revenues of the Department for the fiscal year and ending June 30th, 1850, amounted to five millions five hundred and fifty-two thousand nine hundred and seventy-one dollars and forty-eight cents, including the annual appropriation of two hundred thousand dollars for the franked matter of the departments, and excluding the foreign postages collected for and payable to the British Government.

The expenditures for the same period were five millions two hundred and twelve thousand nine hundred and fifty-three dollars and forty-three cents—leaving a balance of revenue over expenditures of three hundred and forty thousand and eight dollars and 5 cents.

I am happy to find that the fiscal condition of the Department is such as to justify the Postmaster General of recommending the reduction of our inland letter postage to three cents the single letter when prepaid, and five cents when not prepaid.

He also recommends that the pre-paid rate shall be reduced to two cents when the revenues of the Department, after the reduction, shall exceed its expenditures by more than five per cent, for two consecutive years; that the postage upon California and other letters sent by ocean steamers shall be much reduced; and that the rates of postage on newspapers, pamphlets, periodicals, and other printed matter shall be modified, and some reduction thereon made.

It cannot be doubted that the proposed reduction, will for the present, diminish the revenues of the Department. It is believed that the deficiency, after the sum already accumulated shall be exhausted, may be almost wholly met, either by abolishing the existing privilege of sending free matter through the mails, or by paying out of the Treasury to the Post Office Department a sum equivalent to the postage of which it is deprived by such privilege. The last is supposed to be the preferable mode, and will, if not entirely, so nearly supply that deficiency as to make any further appropriation that may be found necessary so considerable as to form no obstacle to the proposed reduction.

The navy continues to give protection to our commerce and other national interests, in the different quarters of the globe, and, with the exception of a single steamer on the Northern lakes, the vessels in commission are distributed in six different squadrons.

The report of the head of that Department will exhibit the services of these squadrons, and of the several vessels employed in each during the past year. It is a source of gratification that, while they have been constantly prepared for any hostile emergency, they have every where met with the respect and courtesy, due as well to the dignity of the peaceful dispositions of the nation.

The two brigadiers accepted by the Government, from a generous citizen of New York, and placed under the command of an officer of the navy; to proceed to the Arctic seas in quest of the British commander, Sir John Franklin, and his companions, in compliance with the act of Congress, approved in May last, had, when last heard from, penetrated into a high northern latitude; but the success of this noble and humane enterprise is yet uncertain.

I invite your attention to the view of our present naval establishment and resources presented in the report of the Secretary of the Navy, and the suggestions theron made for its improvement, together with the naval policy recommended for the security of our Pacific coast, and the protection and extension of our commerce with Eastern Asia.

Our facilities for a participation in the trade of the East by means of our recent settlement on the shores of the Pacific, are too obvious to be overlooked or disregarded.

The questions in relation to rank in the army and navy, and relative rank between officers of the two branches of the service, presented to the Executive by certain resolutions of the House of Representatives at the last session of Congress, have been submitted to a board of officers in each branch of the service, and their report may be expected at an early day.

I also earnestly recommend the enactment of a law authorizing officers of the army and navy to be retired from the service, when incompetent for its vigorous and active duties, taking care to make appropriate provision for those who have faithfully served their country, and awarding distinctions, by retaining to appropriate commands those who have been particularly conspicuous for gallantry and good conduct.

While the obligation of the country to

maintain and honor those who, to the exclusion of other pursuits, have devoted themselves to its arduous service, this obligation should not be permitted to interfere with the efficiency of the service itself.

It is not to be expected that they should raise

money, by internal taxation, direct or indirect,

for the benefit of that commerce,

the revenues derived from which do not either

in whole or in part, go into their own treasuries.

It would be strange if they had been

received with immediate approbation by people and States, prejudiced and heated

by the exciting controversies of their

representatives. I believe those measures to

have been required by the circumstances

and condition of the country. I believe

they were necessary to allay asperities

and animosities that were rapidly alienating

one section of the country from another,

and destroying those fraternal sentiments

which are the strongest supports of the

Constitution. They were adopted in

the spirit of conciliation, and for the

purpose of conciliation.

I am gratified in being able to state, that

the estimates of expenditure for the

navy in the ensuing year are less, by more

than one million of dollars, than those of

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E. City, Dec. 9. CIVIS.

For the Pioneer.

Mr. EDITOR:—In the "Old North
State" of Saturday last appears an article
over the signature of "A Merchant,"

in reference to the proposed "Southern
Rights Association," in which the writer

takes rather strange ground, and opposes

such a formation upon the plea that

it will injure the merchants of E. City,

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POETRY.

[From the *Methodist Protestant*.]

THE STARS.

Look through the open window!
The day is scarcely done,
Yet the silver stars are peering

From the blue sky, one by one,
Stealing gradually towards us,

With their still and pleasant light,

Like ships that from the ocean

Slowly lift their sails of white.

Or they come to us like strangers

From a far-off land unknown;

From beyond a mighty desert

Which untravelled is and lone.

Come, like modest stranger maidens

Trembling with a secret fear,

Lest some evil thing await them

In the new land which they near.

Fairy stars! forever lovely,

Ever welcome to our sight,

Be it on a summer evening

Or a chill October night,—

O! we hail with joy your advent,

Your presence sweet we love,

For ye lift our pensive spirits

To the dreamy world above.

And ye seem plac'd there to cheer us,

As below we toil and weep,

Like the steadfast lights that glimmer

For the seamen o'er the deep.

Our love for things around us

May change with every hour

May perish with the objects

May wither like the flower—

Put we look for you forever,

With the same unchanged desires,

With the earnest quiet longing

With the love that ne'er expires.

MISCELLANEOUS.

[From *Arthur's Home Gazette*.]

THE WORST ENEMY.

A TRUE SKETCH.

BY PAUL CRETTON.

There was a strange mixture of good and evil in Edgar Sumner's character, which few could understand. Certain phases of his intercourse with society, represented him as a pattern of manly virtue others betrayed dark spots on his heart, and proneness to lamentable vices.

The truth is this, Edgar was naturally upright, generous, kind-hearted—all that is admirable in a man. But he had easily contracted the pernicious habit of indulging in an occasional social glass.—The habit, as is nearly always the case, grew upon him, and became his master. Dissipation deadened his better feelings, and he became careless of the happiness of others. His pleasures absorbed his attention, his truest friends were neglected, and his business suffered. Yet nobody called Mr. Edgar Sumner a drunkard, for he never reeled in the street, and his excellent constitution resisted well the train of physical evils consequent upon habits of moderate drinking.

Now Edgar had a wife, to whom he had been married but a few months, and whom he tenderly loved. Emily was a patient, amiable woman, well worthy the affections of a noble-hearted husband. And he loved Edgar with all the strength of her warm and devoted nature. Singular as it may appear, Edgar loving Emily as he did, could not give up his "social pleasures," as he termed them, even for her.

"My dear Emily," he would say, "you know how well I love you; but you cannot really expect me always to remain with you at home. Men of business must have recreations in which their wives cannot participate. Do you understand me, dear?"

Edgar's brow gathered, and he fixed his dark eyes on the ground.

"I did say something to that effect, I believe," he murmured.—"But I said it hastily. She should not have gone that."

"I remonstrated with her," said Emily.

"But you know her spirit. She would not stay, although she loves me, and knows how much I need her."

Edgar appeared very much amazed.

It seemed that nothing indeed could

make him long thoughtful of his wife's comfort.

After dinner he went off whistling a popular air, and returned not until dark.

The domestic had laid the cloth, and Edgar and Emily sat down to the table together. It was then that the vacant seat, which Ellen had always occupied, drew his attention, and occasioned a pang of regret, and a pang of remorse, perhaps.

It was a cold evening, but there was a warm fire burning in the grate, and as Edgar buried his slipped feet in the comfortable rug and opened the last number of Blackwood's Magazine, to read to Emily, the thought struck him that it might be possible for him to spend one evening pleasantly at home.

Emily's face was radiant with happiness, as she listened, gazing upon the many features of her husband, whom she loved so well.

"Dear Edgar," she said, when he paused to stir the grate, "you are so good to stay with me this evening!—You make me very happy indeed!"

"Do I?"

Mr. Sumner kissed his companion affectionately, and resumed his reading. At that moment, an approving voice within him made him glad that he had not spoken of going out.

An hour passed, Edgar became weary of reading, and laying aside his book, added fresh fuel to the fire. Then, notwithstanding the presence of Emily, who endeavored to amuse him, he sat gazing thoughtfully at the fantastic blue flames which crept over the dark coals in the grate, growing brighter and brighter, as they crackled, reddened, and began to burn.

"Wretched man! He could not content himself at home with the wife he loved even for one short evening; old habits were imperative, old associations shut out from his heart the comforts of home, and already the powerful thirst for excitement rendered him impatient to join his companions.

"What time is it?" he asked.

"A few minutes past nine," answered Emily.

Five minutes elapsed. Edgar paced back and forth uneasily.

"Emily," said he at last, "I believe I must go out for a few minutes. You'd better not sit up for me, although I shall be back soon."

Emily affectionately urged him not to go, but he persisted, declaring that he would not be gone an hour. She said

to dine; the tea was served, and the unhappy wife, after delaying long, in hopes of his return, sipped her cup, and ate her bit of toast without him; and then the chill and gloomy night came on, and Edgar was still away.

That long and cheerless evening wore on, and notwithstanding the kind intentions of her sister Ellen, who was her companion, Emily felt no happiness in the present, and saw no hope in the future.

At length Edgar returned, and from his manner, Emily plainly saw that he had been indulging in the pleasure of the winecup. He was very gay, and while his unhappy wife regarded him with tearful eyes, he earnestly declared that he had come home early for no other reason than to have a game of whist with Emily and her sister! Too much agitated to speak, Mrs. Sumner only sighed, and brushed away her tears in silence, while Ellen reminded Edgar that the Sabbath had not yet passed.

"True!" he exclaimed—"I had forgotten! And besides that, there are only three of us. But we should do something for amusement, girls, what shall it be?"

"If you wish for amusement to-night," said Ellen, severally—she was a frank, sensible girl of eighteen, "but sometimes too hasty in her remarks, "if you wish for amusement to-night, Mr. Sumner, you had better go away again. Emily is very unwell, and your neglect and carelessness are killing her."

"Hugh!" gasped Emily. "How could you speak so, Ellen?"

"Because it is truth!"

"Because it is a lie—and because I am not master in my own house!" thundered Edgar, angrily. "You are an impudent jade, Miss, and if you come to create misunderstandings between me and Emily, you will do well to go home again as soon as convenient."

"Very well, sir," responded Ellen, turning her back upon Edgar, and kissing Emily affectionately—"Good night, sister. Don't say—good night."

Emily's voice was choked with sobs, and before she could speak, Ellen had left the room.

Alone with his wife, Edgar looked darkly at the fire, and mused some moments in gloomy silence. The sobs of his wife aroused him; but he was sobered soon!

"No doctor?" he gasped.

"Somebody had gone for one, but none had yet arrived."

"She breathes—oh, God—do not let her die!" prayed the terrified, remorseful man.

All are happy—even Edgar, for his old habits of dissipation have been completely overcome, and the sight of the winecup causes him to shudder, and exclaim—

"Oh, ye moderate drinkers, beware! Crush the serpent before it is too late to shake off its tightening folds. Ruin not your own peace and the happiness of your friends, and wait not for the chastening hand of Heaven to teach you wisdom with calamity, and quench your thirst with fire."

"Then why did she speak so to me?"

Emily made no answer. "She is certainly an impudent girl," muttered Edgar. "Why should she try to make differences between us?"

"Oh, she did not, Edgar. She means well—the dear girl; but she spoke hastily."

"And perhaps I did, too," added Mr. Sumner.

No more was said on the subject of Edgar's neglect, and he probably would not have thought of the matter again, had he not discovered, on coming home to dinner on the following day, that Ellen had gone home to her parents.

"What does this mean?" he asked.

"She said you told her to go," timidly answered Emily.

Edgar's brow gathered, and he fixed his dark eyes on the ground.

"I did say something to that effect, I believe," he murmured.—"But I said it hastily. She should not have gone that."

"I remonstrated with her," said Emily.

"But you know her spirit. She would not stay, although she loves me, and knows how much I need her."

It was a queer state of things, he said at length. "That girl has been trying to put strange ideas into your head, Emily. Can you say that I am ever unkind to you?"

"Oh, no!" cried Mrs. Sumner, eagerly. "You have never been unkind to me, I am sure."

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